



Wednesday, March 05, 2003

AN OPEN LETTER REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR WITH IRAQ:

The members of the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest, California, are proud citizens of a free and peace-loving nation; a free nation formed in revolution and civil war.

Our nation has extolled the virtues of freedom; a nation whose values and principles have illuminated the world. Our nation has led those who've brought freedom to the oppressed.


During the 1930's, however, free nations failed to use force when confronted by Hitler Germany's intentional violations of the Versailles Treaty. Had preemptive force, rather than appeasement been employed, the world would have been spared the destruction of World War II, and the death of over 50 million men, women, and children.


Now comes Saddam Hussein, a dictator who has initiated unprovoked wars against Iran, Kuwait, and – as Hitler did – Hussein has warred against his own people. Hussein's Iraq is in material breach of its obligations under United Nations resolutions 661, 678, 686, 687, 688, 707, 715, 986, 1284, and 1441. He has developed weapons with far greater destructive power and ease of delivery than anything devised by Hitler's Germany.


Unilateral, preemptive military force is a means of last resort. None-the-less, the horrific nature of today's weapons of mass destruction and the demonstrated will of our enemies to use them against peaceful non-combatants force our nation to address this threat.


We support our President and our National Government. Most importantly, we support our troops, here and abroad. They are our brothers and sisters; sons and daughters. They have our gratitude for the sacrifices they are prepared to make as the price for our freedom. We thank our veterans and those who paid the ultimate price when called to defend our country. We stand united in support of any and all necessary and appropriate diplomatic and military options that serve to protect our loved ones, our communities, and our nation.


For these reasons, the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest, California, will distribute this letter broadly, and cause it to be printed in the newspapers of this City.


Ronald H. Carter, Mayor


Marshall "Chip" Holloway, Mayor Pro Tem


Richard "Duke" Martin, Vice Mayor


Steven P. Morgan, Council Member


Dan Clark, Council Member

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